

through the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization, at the regional level through the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and at the bilateral level with free trade agreements with individual countries like Chile and Mexico and Canada. And the United States Congress is now considering the Central American and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement, which offers an historic opportunity to bring prosperity to the citizens of our hemisphere who have not known it.

For the young democracies of Central America, CAFTA would bring new investment, and that means good jobs and higher labor standards for their workers. In these nations, wealthier citizens already enjoy access to goods and services produced abroad. By reducing tariffs on U.S. goods, all consumers in these countries will enjoy better goods at lower prices. These lower prices will also give Central American small businesses and farmers and entrepreneurs less costly access to U.S. machinery and equipment, which will make them more competitive and help their economies grow. By bringing economic growth to Central America, CAFTA will contribute to the rise of a vibrant middle class. And that makes us reach—a step closer to our goal, a goal of the Americas where the opportunities in San Jose, Costa Rica, are as real as they are in San Jose, California.

For U.S. farmers and businesses and workers, CAFTA would expand opportunity by creating a more level playing field for our goods and services. Under existing rules, most of Central America's exports already enter the United States duty free, but U.S. exports still face hefty tariffs. By passing CAFTA, the United States would open up a market of 44 million consumers for our farmers and small-business people. CAFTA will replace a system that is often arbitrary with one that is fair and transparent and based on common rules.

For the Western Hemisphere, CAFTA would continue to advance the stability and security that come from freedom. An Americas linked by trade is less likely to be divided by resentment and false ideologies. An Americas where all our people live in prosperity will be more peaceful. And an Americas whose countries have reduced the barriers

to trade among ourselves will be a more competitive region in a global economy.

CAFTA is more than just a trade agreement; it is a signal of the U.S. commitment to democracy and prosperity for our neighbors, and I urge the United States Congress to pass it.

In the last half-century, the nations of the Americas have overcome enormous challenges, colonialism and communism and military dictatorship. At the start of this new century, these divisions have fallen away, and now we have it within our means to eliminate the scourge of poverty from our hemisphere. In this room, we still represent many different countries with different traditions and different mother tongues, but today we can say with pride that we all speak the common language of liberty. And by making the blessings of freedom real in our hemisphere, we will set a shining example for the rest of the world.

Thank you for letting me come by. *Que Dios los bendiga*. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who introduced the President; Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza and Assistant Secretary General Luigi R. Einaudi of the Organization of American States; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida and his wife, Columba. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Remarks at a Reception for Black Music Month

June 6, 2005

Thank you all. Welcome to the White House. Laura and I are honored to have some of the country's finest entertainers with us tonight. We're here to celebrate Black Music Month, and we thank you all for coming.

For decades, Presidents have taken pride in welcoming black musicians to play in this house, and the performers seem to enjoy this place when they come. [Laughter] One of the greatest black musicians to visit the White House was Dizzy Gillespie. He liked

it so much here he became a write-in candidate for President in 1964. *[Laughter]* His platform included jazz in schools and Miles Davis as the head of the CIA. *[Laughter]* I'm not making that up. *[Laughter]*

Teresa, thank you very much for emceeding this event. I really thank our entertainers. You were great. Thank you for filling this house—*[applause]*. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who have joined us. I appreciate Senator George Allen from Virginia and Congressman Bobby Scott from Virginia for joining us as well. A lot of distinguished Americans here, and we're really glad you're here. Welcome.

Each June, we honor the great contributions that black musicians have made to America and to the world. The music of African American artists has enhanced our lives and created some of the Nation's most treasured art forms, and that's why we celebrate this month. From gospel music to blues to jazz to rock and roll, the songs of America's black musicians have defined their times and have enriched our culture.

It's hard to imagine America without the genius of Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie, the voices of Lena Horn and Diana Ross and Ella Fitzgerald and so many others. We just can't envision our country without those voices. Their achievements remind us that our diversity makes our country strong.

The artists we celebrate this month use music to lift the human spirit. Black music in America began with the work songs and spirituals of people held in slavery. Their songs bore witness to cruelty and earthly injustice, and yet in them, we hear the voice of faith lifted up to God. That music could have come only from the unique experience of African Americans, yet it speaks a language that all Americans understand.

The Psalms tell us to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." You lived up to the Psalms. *[Laughter]* Smokie, Mary Mary, and Donnie understand that part of the Gospel. *[Laughter]* These gospel artists have found a modern audience for a timeless music, and they have never forgot their purpose. Pastor Donnie likes to say, "If you ever want to get anybody in touch with God, sing to them." He has a whole congregation on Long Island

saying amen when he sings, kind of like he had in the White House. *[Laughter]*

At its best, music speaks to every heart, and some moving performances by black musicians have happened right here at the White House. You just witnessed one. In 1882, a black choir called the Fisk Jubilee Singers moved President Arthur to tears with their performance of "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Sissieretta Jones, the daughter of a slave, sang opera here in the White House for President Benjamin Harrison. In 1939, Marian Andersen performed "Ave Maria" for Franklin Roosevelt right here in this room. President Roosevelt said that "music can make us all more vividly aware of the common humanity which is ours." Let history record, you had me jumping in my seat. *[Laughter]*

Throughout our history, African American artists have created music with the power to change hearts and reshape our national conscience. The songs of black musicians heralded social change. Music like jazz and blues communicated across racial barriers. That music began in America's country churches and urban clubs of Chicago, New Orleans, and Harlem. Today, it is cherished here at home and around the world.

And our black musicians continue to inspire us and bring us together. Across the country, American cities and towns will celebrate Black Music Month with their own festivals. We're just a small part of a larger celebration. From the Chicago Blues Festival to the B.B. King Homecoming Festival in Mississippi to the JVC Jazz Festival in New York City, people of all races and ages and creeds will come together on warm June nights to celebrate these musicians and their music.

Today, African American artists have continued to set standards of originality and creativity. The incredible talents of black musicians keep lifting their art and lifting the souls of America. We heard that talent today. We're grateful to all the black musicians who have brought such beauty and pride to our country, and we're grateful to you all.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:37 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to Teresa Hairston, founder and publisher, Gospel Today; and entertainers Smokie Norful, Mary Mary, and Donnie McClurkin.

### **The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom**

*June 7, 2005*

**President Bush.** Thank you all. Good afternoon. Laura and I are really honored to welcome the Prime Minister and Cherie back to the White House. Welcome, Tony, glad you're here. Congratulations on your great victory. It was a landmark victory, and I'm really thrilled to be able to work with you to spread freedom and peace over the next years.

Our alliance with Great Britain is strong, and it's essential to peace and security. Together our two nations worked to liberate Europe from fascism. Together we defended freedom during the cold war. Today, we're standing together again to fight the war on terror, to secure democracy and freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan and the broader Middle East, and to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. As we face the challenges and opportunities of a new century, our alliance is stronger than ever.

Prime Minister Blair and I share a common vision of a world that is free, prosperous, and at peace. When men and women are free to choose their own governments, to speak their minds, and to pursue a good life for their families, they build a strong, prosperous, and just society.

This is the vision chosen by Iraqis in elections in January, and the United States and Britain will stand with the Iraqi people as they continue their journey toward freedom and democracy. We'll support Iraqis as they take the lead in providing their own security. Our strategy is clear: We're training Iraqi forces so they can take the fight to the enemy, so they can defend their country. And then our troops will come home with the honor they have earned.

By spreading freedom throughout the broader Middle East, we'll end the bitterness and hatred that feed the ideology of terror. We're working together to help build the

democratic institutions of a future Palestinian state. We support Israel's disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. We're advancing the vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

We also share a commitment to help the people of Africa build strong democratic institutions and healthy economies. The Prime Minister has made the promotion of reform and development in Africa a centerpiece of the G-8 summit that the United Kingdom will be hosting next month. And I'm grateful for your vision, and I'm grateful for your leadership on this important subject.

Helping those who suffer and preventing the senseless death of millions of people in Africa is a central commitment of my administration's foreign policy. We're making historic progress in helping the poorest countries in Africa gain a fresh start and to build a future of greater opportunity and prosperity. America will continue to lead the world to meet our duty in helping the world's most vulnerable people.

Over the past 4 years, we have tripled our assistance to sub-Saharan Africa, and now America accounts for nearly a quarter of all the aid in the region. And we're committed to doing more in the future. We also agree that highly indebted developing countries that are on the path to reform should not be burdened by mountains of debt. Our countries are developing a proposal for the G-8 that will eliminate 100 percent of that debt, and that, by providing additional resources, will preserve the financial integrity of the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

As we work with African nations to develop democratic institutions and vibrant economies that will provide greater opportunity for all Africans, we must also address emergency needs. I'm pleased to announce the United States will provide approximately \$674 million of additional resources to respond to humanitarian emergencies in Africa. One of those emergencies is the growing hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa. In response to this need, \$414 million of those additional resources will be provided immediately to avert